Michigan Department of Community Health

MDCH

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Overview: What Laboratories Need to Know

Laboratory-based reporting is the route by which hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) cases are identified. Since 1988, Michigan has required laboratories to report all HBsAg-positive test results to the ordering physician and within 24 hours to the local health department (LHD) in the county where the patient resides. Since the implementation of the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS), laboratories are now able to electronically submit HBsAg-positive test results directly to the state and local health departments.

The goal of the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) is to ensure that all HBsAg-positive pregnant women are identified and their lab results are reported in a timely manner. To assist in achieving this goal:

1. Report all HBsAg-positive test results within 24 hours to the LHD/Communicable Disease Unit in the county where the patient resides, by:

    A. Faxing a copy of the HBsAg-positive result (optional Local Health Department Fax Cover Sheet), or
    B. Electronically submitting this data through MDSS (If you are not currently enrolled in MDSS, please contact your LHD/Communicable Disease Unit), or
    C. Calling, if systems are down (Directory of Michigan Health Departments by County is located on the back of the Reportable Diseases in Michigan).

2. Continue to report all HBsAg test results to the ordering physician's office.

All laboratories that provide HBsAg testing of pregnant women should use an FDA-licensed or approved HBsAg test and should perform testing according to the manufacturer's labeling, including testing of initially reactive specimens with a licensed neutralizing confirmatory test (MMWR 12/23/05, 54 (RR16); 1-23).

If you have any questions, please call the PHBPP staff at 517-335-8122 or 800-964-4487. In southeast Michigan, call 313-456-4431 or 313-456-4432.

Michigan's Communicable Disease Rules, Section 333.5111, Act No. 368, Public Acts of 1978, as amended in R325.171, R325.172, and R325.173. In R325.173, Rule3 (5), a clinical laboratory shall report, within 24 hours of discovery, both of the following to the appropriate local health department: (a) Laboratory evidence of any serious infection specified in R325.172 except for human immunodeficiency virus which is governed by MCL 333.5114. (b) Laboratory evidence of any other disease, infection or condition that is judged by the laboratory director to indicate that the health of the public is threatened.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): Sharing of public health information (PHI) with public health authorities is addressed in §164.512(b): (1) Permitted disclosures: A covered entity may disclose protected health information for the public health activities and purposes to: (i) A public health authority that is authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions.